



Financial Aid Guidance Review

September 2007

NASFAA announces the National Federation of the Blind scholarships for 2008. The scholarship application deadline is March 31, 2008. In addition to a scholarship, each winner will be brought to the 2008 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention in July at Federation expense, providing an excellent opportunity for high-level networking with active blind persons in many different professions and occupations.

<http://www.nasfaa.org/publications/2007/anblind092407.html>

Dear Colleague Letters

- GEN-07-06 This letter provides a revised list of academic majors eligible for the National SMART Grants for the 2007-08 award year.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0706.html>
- GEN-07-05 The Department has recently been notified that outside entities, including student-lending organizations, have contacted institutions and have requested student, or former student, information under either the Federal Freedom of Information Act or under a state freedom of information law. Institutions that participate in Title IV, HEA programs are not subject to the federal FOIA and therefore are not required to release any student information under this law.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0705.html>
- FP-07-09 This letter provides additional guidance to guaranty agencies for evaluating applications for FFEL program false certification loan discharges based upon a borrower's claim that an institution did not properly determine the borrower's ability-to-benefit. <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/FP0709GillATBLetter.html>

Electronic Announcements

- 09-26-2007 FSA is pleased to announce the availability of the "2005-06 Quality Assurance Program Data Analysis Report." This report contains findings from 140 of the schools participating in the Quality Assurance Program during the 2005-06 award year. <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0926QADAREpt0506.html>
- 09-26-2007 In accordance with the addition of new eligible academic majors for the 2007-08 Award Year, FSA has updated the CIP codes for 2007-08 National SMART Grant awards in the COD System.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0926UpdatedNatSMARTGrantMajCIPCodes.html>
- 09-25-2007 FSA announces phase I of G5 will address e-Payments and provide improved drawdown functionality. Full implementation of Phase I is targeted for the last quarter of calendar year 2007—most likely over the Veterans Day holiday weekend (November 8-12, 2007).
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0925G5ImplementUpdate.html>
- 09-24-2007 FSA provides schools with updated operational guidance on the codes to use when reporting verification status to the Department in the Pell Grant awards.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0924VeriStatusCode.html>

- 09-24-2007 FSA has provided schools with an updated ACG Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study for 2007 Graduates and Updated/Expanded Resource Guide.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0924UpdatedACGRecRigSecSchool.html>
- 09-14-2007 This announcement contains three letters related to the statutory and regulatory requirements on the prohibition against improper inducements between FFEL program lenders, guaranty agencies and schools.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0914FFELProhibitedInducementGuidance.html>
- 09-13-2007 FSA has announced that paper FAFSAs will not be available for 2008-09 for schools to order via FSAPubs. Students will be able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) toll-free at 1.800.4.FED.AID (1.800.433.3243). Students may request up to three copies of the paper application and should receive their FAFSAs in three to seven business days.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0913FAFSAFOTW0809Update.html>
- 09-12-2007 Effective September 1, 2007, the Seattle, WA Immigration Status Verification (ISV) Unit no longer exists. Manual G-845 cases are now being handled by the Los Angeles, CA field office. Schools in the state of Washington that previously sent G-845 forms to Seattle, WA will now send the forms to Los Angeles, CA.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0912USCISFieldOfficeClosures.html>
- 09-12-2007 During the summer of 2006, the Department established an e-mail address to which schools could send questions about HERA. Recently, it was necessary to change the e-mail address. A new e-mail address is provided.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0912HERAFAQEmailAddressChange.html>
- 09-10-2007 FSA announced a "Briefing on National Default Rates" in Microsoft PowerPoint Format and Portable Document Format.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0910NatlDefaultRate.html>
- 09-10-2007 On Monday, September 10, 2007, the Department distributed the FY 2005 official cohort default rate notification packages.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0910Update05IFAP.html>
- 09-07-2007 The Department, Office of Inspector General, issued a Dear CPA Letter No. 07-01 to amend the January 2000 Audit Guide, "Audits of Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs at Participating Institutions and Institution Servicers", used by auditors performing audits of for-profit postsecondary institutions and servicers. The letter amends the Audit Guide to provide mandatory procedures for auditing AGC and SMART Grants at for-profit postsecondary institutions. It also applies to audits of for-profit servicers.
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0907ACGSMARTAuditGuide.html>

For more information on any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Beryl Schantz
Senior Policy and Regulatory Analyst
bschantz@edfund.org
916.526.7316